

DENIES HE DICTATED LETTERS ON 'STRIKE'

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Amplifies His Answer to Chairman Walsh.

CALLS SOME CHARGES "ABSOLUTELY FALSE"

Says Committee Head Tried to Create Impression He Was Indifferent to Conditions in Colorado.

NEW YORK, April 26.—John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has given out a statement in amplification of the one he issued Saturday in answer to that of Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the United States commission on industrial relations, who made public charges against the Rockefeller family and L. M. Bowers, chairman of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. Mr. Rockefeller also reviews at length incidents in connection with the Colorado strike situation.

At the outset Mr. Rockefeller reiterated his complaint against Chairman Walsh, whom he charged in Saturday's statement with drawing false inferences and conclusions from the correspondence referred to which he and his associates had placed in the hands of the commission, violating all constitutional rights protecting private correspondence.

Mr. Rockefeller characterized as false the statement of Chairman Walsh that he (Rockefeller) presumed to dictate letters that went out to the President of the United States and to the governors of the states, over the signature of the Governor of Colorado. "These facts," Mr. Rockefeller's statement declares, "are as follows:

Explains the Situation.

"Last May Gov. Ammons sent Maj. E. J. Boughton, attorney general of Colorado, to New York. I never met Maj. Boughton, but he told Mr. Lee (J. V. Lee, Mr. Rockefeller's representative) that Gov. Ammons had been disturbed over the misunderstanding which prevailed in the eastern states concerning many phases of the Colorado strike. Maj. Boughton asked Mr. Lee if he had in mind any effective way of getting the facts before the public. Mr. Lee suggested that one method would be for the governor to write a letter to the President of the United States and to the governors of the states, and to the governors of the states, over the signature of the Governor of Colorado. Mr. Rockefeller's statement declares, "are as follows:

"To get the matter into shape for consideration, Maj. Boughton asked Mr. Lee to make his suggestion concrete by preparing a draft of the kind of letter which he had in mind. As a basis for the preparation of this draft, Maj. Boughton sent Mr. Lee a memorandum of his own view of the situation. The memorandum written by me and referred to in one of my letters as having been sent by me to Mr. Lee was nothing more than a rough draft of a statement concerning the Colorado situation which I had drawn up, in answer to statements which had appeared in the press but had never been used. "A copy of this memorandum, which as I wrote to Mr. Lee June 16, 1914, was incomplete and only suggestive, accompanied this statement. When I learned of Mr. Lee's suggestion to Maj. Boughton it occurred to me that this memorandum contained material which Mr. Lee might find helpful in that connection. Mr. Lee drafted his ideas and sent them to Maj. Boughton, but they were never even submitted to Gen. Chase, let alone to the governor. From Gov. Ammons' statement in the morning papers it is obvious that he never knew that such a suggestion had been made."

Denies Massacre at Ludlow.

Mr. Rockefeller in the memorandum then says that there was no Ludlow massacre. "The engagement," he said, "started as a desperate fight for life by two small squads of militia, numbering twelve and twelve men respectively, against the entire tent colony, which attacked with over 300 armed men. There were no women and children shot by the authorities of the state or representatives of the operators in connection with the Ludlow engagement. Not one."

"The statement takes up the assertion of Chairman Walsh that the correspondence between Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Bowers reveals that he (Mr. Rockefeller) had a plan for publishing a string of daily statements, each of which was absolutely false," Mr.

Rockefeller declared. "I never had such a plan."

"I may add that propositions to purchase or establish newspapers have for many years been made to my father and myself, but have without exception been rejected."

Answering the charges of Mr. Walsh that Mr. Rockefeller had a plan of financing the publication of the official organ of the National Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Rockefeller declares that the paper referred to is the Nation's Business, and is distributed without charge to members of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

"Falsified Record," He Says.

Mr. Rockefeller says "Mr. Walsh falsifies the record in referring to an interview between Edith Stewart, a representative of the department of labor at Washington, and Mr. Murphy of his (Rockefeller's) office."

Mr. Rockefeller then charges Chairman Walsh with attempting "to create the impression by direct statement and by insinuation that my associates and I were indifferent to the distressing conditions in Colorado."

Striving to Improve Conditions.

Mr. Rockefeller's statement concludes as follows: "The officers and directors of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company are earnestly striving to improve conditions in Colorado so as to make forever impossible the recurrence of such a strike as that of 1913 and 1914. We earnestly solicit the aid of the public in achieving this result. "Can it be that the only factor of importance now tending to the complete restoration of industrial peace in Colorado is the chairman of the United States commission on industrial relations?"

APPEALS COURT RULES AGAINST SANTA FE R. R.

Decides Secretary of Interior May Demand \$5,500 Deposit for Land Survey.

The Secretary of the Interior may demand a deposit of \$5,500 from the Santa Fe Railroad Company before ordering a survey of lands granted to the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company in four townships in the west. The District Court of Appeals so decided today when, in an opinion by Mr. Justice Robb, Chief Justice Shepard concurring, it affirmed the action of the District Supreme Court in refusing an injunction to the railroad against Secretary Lane. Mr. Justice Van Orsdel wrote a dissenting opinion.

When the Atlantic and Pacific railroad was incorporated a grant was made to the company of every alternate section of public land, not mineral, designated by odd numbers in the township in question. The Santa Fe is the successor of the former company, and wishing its land surveyed, applied to the department and was directed to make a deposit of \$5,500 to cover the costs.

Railroad Filed Protest.

The railroad company protested that the demand should be reduced one-half, claiming that it was being required to pay the cost of surveying the land which belonged to the government.

The lower court denied the injunction sought, and the appellate tribunal, in its majority opinion, affirms that action, holding that Secretary Lane acted within his jurisdiction, and unless his decision was arbitrary or capricious, it could not be reviewed.

"We think the Secretary's decision," says Justice Robb, "was based upon a possible construction of the act of 1910, and that therefore it was not arbitrary or capricious."

Steamer St. Johns Overhauled.

Having been fitted with new boilers and having had much other work done to her at the Newport News shipyard to put her in trim for excursion service on the river, the sidewheel steamer St. Johns, belonging to the Colonial Beach Company, will leave Newport News tomorrow morning, and will reach her dock here tomorrow night. She will make her first trip to Colonial Beach May 29.

Minor Bride Seeks Freedom.

Catherine Falciano, sixteen years old, by her next friend, Dominick Ambrosio, filed suit today to annul her marriage to Louis John Falciano, a plasterer, twenty-two years old. The marriage ceremony was performed on November 16, 1914, and the plaintiff says they separated January 2d. Attorneys M. A. Ballinger and George H. MacDonald appear for the wife.

BASE BALL'S BEGINNINGS.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

There is something almost epic in the story of base ball. Other games have had their passionate devotees, their own select little following, but base ball is unique in its power to move and interest great masses of people.

Springing from a game played in the ancient lots and commons of America by street urchins, and even by girls, base ball in a quarter of a century evolved into a national pastime that drew thousands of spectators and aroused the passions of men to such an extent as repeatedly to threaten the existence of the game.

Few Americans know that as long ago as 1866 a crowd of 4,000 persons gathered in Philadelphia to witness a base ball game. It was played between the Brooklyn and Philadelphia clubs, which contained the most skillful players in America, and between which a fierce rivalry had grown up. But a crowd of 4,000 was so much greater than had been expected that there was no room left at the ball grounds for the players. The crowd overran the diamond and got beyond control, so that the game came to an end after one inning.

The game was called again for the next day, and in order to prevent a similar crush the unheard of admission fee of \$1 was charged.

Game Called.

Following Day, was charged, 25 cents having therefore been considered a high admission fee. Even at that price 2,000 people passed through the gate, while several thousand more were turned away disgruntled. A hot game was played, and the Philadelphia Athletics ran up a score of 21 runs to 12 for their opponents, in seven innings. The game was then called on account of darkness, whereupon the representatives of the two clubs got into a heated dispute about the magnificent score, with the result that their athletic relations were severed for a long time.

Relations between the Brooklyn and the Philadelphia and other clubs of that vicinity were played according to the New York rules. The New York game closely resembled modern base ball and was so-called to differentiate it from the game played in New England, which was much slower in development. Massachusetts was the center of New England's base ball, and the game was played there with great enthusiasm and endurance, though in rather crude fashion.

A typical New England game of the early sixties was played at Medway between a couple of clubs whose names history does not record. The game, which was played with great enthusiasm, lasted two days, the actual time of play being eleven hours, while the number of innings was eighty. The final score was 100 to 56, and the game was considered a seven-day wonder because sixteen innings were played without a single run.

These organized games in New England, however, were the exception, most of them being played by "scrub" teams.

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Thousands Who Flee From Massacre in the Caucasus Suffer Terribly in Mad Flight.

DILMAN, Persia, April 24, via Petrograd to London, April 24, 3:10 a.m.—The exodus of from 20,000 to 25,000 Armenians and Nestorian Christians from Azerbaijan province, the massacre of over 1,500 of those who were unable to flee, the death from disease of 2,000 in the compounds of the American mission in Urmiah, and possibly of an equal number of refugees in the Caucasus, have been confirmed.

When it became known the night of January 12 that the Russian forces had left Urmiah, about 10,000 Christians fled, most of them without money, bedding or provisions.

Sleep in Mud and Snow.

A majority of the people started out, through mud knee deep, across the mountain passes in freezing weather. At Dilman they were joined by many more from Salmas plain. But for Father de Cross of the Roman Catholic mission, at Hosrova, near here, the disaster might have become hopeless. After assuring the safety of the sisters of the mission, Father de Cross joined the pilgrims and tried to secure bread and shelter for many of them.

The caravansaries were so crowded that thousands slept in the mud and the snow. Children were born on the roadside or in the corner of a caravansary.

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Father de Cross had to put his back against a wall to fight off the famished mob when he began distributing bread. The mud and cold and the shelterless nights, during which the garments of the refugees were frozen knee high, continued for three weeks, until the people were slowly dispersed by rail.

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This spectacular success gave a great impulse to professionalism and was followed within a few years by the organization of the National Association and then the National League. The latter followed a period of ups and downs which more than once threatened the existence of the game. At one time professional baseball was on the verge of being abandoned for a more primitive game, while at another the players became disgruntled and formed a brotherhood for the purpose of dictating their own terms, thus precipitating a war of players and managers. But the game was pulled through all of these vicissitudes by the tremendous hold which it had upon the emotions of the American public, and was gradually brought to the position of organization which is the admiration of American fans today.

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Usually Played by "Scrub" Teams. The common of almost every New England town was a base ball field, where the boys played in the early part of the afternoon, while later it was given over to the young men. In these towns common games of American boys, great base ball players were developed, and they served exactly the same purpose in bringing out talent that the back lot tournaments at two-old-cat serve today.

There is no game whose evolution from its crudest stages has been more clearly traced than that of base ball, and this evolution is especially interesting as showing how a highly perfected game may be developed from a crude beginning. "Rounders" is generally accepted as the parent game of modern base ball. This game was widely played by American boys between the years 1825 and 1840. There were four bases, which were marked by pegs driven into the ground. A hole corresponded to the modern home plate. The batter tried to toss a ball into the hole, and the batter tried to hit it. A runner might be put out either by being hit with a ball while he was between two bases, or by being caught out on a fly or by the ball thrown into the home plate hole.

The evolution of modern base ball from this crude amusement has really consisted in only a few essential changes so far as the method of procedure is concerned, but these few have been of vital importance and have tested. Thus along in the early sixties, when base ball was first becoming a national game and the first base ball conventions were held, there was a long and hotly waged controversy as to whether the batter should be called out on a fly. Repeatedly in the conventions a rule allowing the batter to run on a caught fly was brought up, but always it was voted down. At this period, however, there were many "fly" games in which runners were allowed

to run on a caught fly by common consent.

Beginning of Era of